REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 11, 2000, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made in the claims, and the claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Initially, Applicants note that a change has been made to the specification to correct a typographical error in the application cited therein. This error was noted by the Examiner in co-pending application serial no. 09/107,923, wherein the same change has been made.

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, claim 6 is rejected as being indefinite. Claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error, which should address the Examiner's concern.

In paragraphs 3-5, each of claims 1-9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 as being anticipated or obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,898,891 (Meyer). Claim 1 has been amended to clearly distinguish over Meyer.

Claim 1 is directed to a storage system for use in a computer system including a host computer. The storage system comprises at least one storage device having a plurality of storage locations, and a controller that controls access to the at least one storage device from the host computer. The controller is capable of generating data and writing the data to a first storage location on the at least one storage device in response to a communication from the host computer that does not include the data to be written.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Meyer discloses a storage system with a controller capable of writing data in response to a communication from a host computer that does not include the data to be written, in that the Meyer system can respond to DMA commands that cause data to be transferred directly from one device to another, such that command received from the host does not include the data to be written. To distinguish over Meyer, claim 1 has been amended to recite the storage system controller as being capable of generating the data to be written to the first storage location. Meyer does not teach or suggest a storage system including such a controller, as the DMA transfer from one storage device to another does not generate the data to be written. Support for this aspect of the present invention is provided, for example, in the specification at page 25, lines 4-28.

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For the reasons stated above, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Meyer, such that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Meyer should be withdrawn. Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.
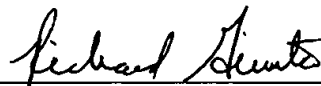
New claims 10-22 have been added to the application to further define Applicants' invention. These additional claims include new independent claims 12 and 22.

Claims 12-21 are directed to a method of operating a storage system in a computer system including the storage system and a host computer coupled thereto, wherein the storage system includes at least one storage device having a plurality of storage locations. The method comprises, in response to a communication received from the host computer, acts of: (A) generating, within the storage system, data to be written to a first storage location on the at least one storage device; and (B) writing the data to the first storage location. As should be appreciated from the foregoing, Meyer does not teach or suggest a method of operating a storage system that includes an act of generating data within the storage system. Therefore, it is believed that claims 12-21 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record.

Independent claim 22 is directed to a storage system comprising at least one storage device and a controller that controls access to the at least one storage device from a host computer. The controller is capable of writing data to a first storage location in response to a communication from the host computer that does not include the data to be written to the first storage location. In addition, the controller includes means, responsive to the communication, for generating the data. As should be appreciated from the foregoing, Meyer does not teach or suggest a storage system including means for generating data to be written to at least one storage device in the storage system. Therefore, it is believed that claim 22 patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes for any reason that the application is not in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

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